

laterally across the width of the system transport so that the labels are applied at the proper position along the length of the envelopes. Specifically, during processing, the mail pieces are placed into the feeding station 20 on their bottom edges. In this way, when the pieces are fed onto roller bed 70 and justified, the bottom edge of each piece is justified against rail 75. According to postal regulations, the postage is to be applied above and to the right of the address for a piece (typically the postage is applied to the upper right hand corner of an envelope). A standard No. 10 envelope is approximately 4 inches tall, so that the postage label is applied approximately 3 inches from the bottom edge. However, taller envelopes, such as some flats, are approximately nine inches tall, so that applying the postage label 3 inches from the bottom edges of the flats would improperly apply the postage label too close to the bottom edge.

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Similarly, the verifier 100 may scan the pieces to simply look for an identifier on the pieces. The identifier on the pieces may be printed on the postage label during an earlier pass through the apparatus. For such mail, the image data for the entire front face need not be analyzed to locate and identify the identification mark. Specifically, the apparatus would have placed the postage label in the upper right-hand corner on the piece during the first pass. Therefore, during the verification pass, the image data for the upper right-hand corner can be analyzed to locate the identification mark. In addition, since the piece may be processed in a different orientation during the verification pass than the first pass, the label may be in a different corner of the scanned image. Therefore, the image data for two or more corners may be analyzed to identify the identification mark. However, regardless of whether one corner or four corners are checked, the processing time to find the identification mark is significantly reduced since only certain portions of the image data is analyzed for a piece rather than all of the image data for the piece.

ATTACHMENT A

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An example of the verification of the mailing information is as follows. A piece of mail is printed with the address: John Doe, 1500 Market Street, Philadelphia, PA 91103. The zipcode in the database shows that the zipcodes in Philadelphia start with 19 rather not 91. Therefore, the computer determines that an element of the scanned mailing information is incorrect for the piece, and the piece is rejected.

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The apparatus 10 can also accommodate tall mail. For tall mail, the cameras 82, 102 do not necessarily need to be adjusted, since the mail is scanned lying front face up. However, it may be necessary to adjust the position of the printer laterally across the width of the system transport so that the labels are applied at the proper positioned position along the length of the envelopes. Specifically, during processing, the mail pieces are placed into the feeding station 20 on their bottom edges. In this way, when the pieces are fed onto roller bed 70 and justified, the bottom edge of each piece is justified against rail 75. According to postal regulations, the postage is to be applied above and to the right of the address for a piece (typically the postage is applied to the upper right hand corner of an envelope). A standard No. 10 envelope is approximately 4 inches tall, so that the postage label is applied approximately 3 inches from the bottom edge. However, taller envelopes, such as some flats, are approximately nine inches tall, so that applying the postage label 3 inches from the bottom edges of the flats would improperly apply the postage label too close to the bottom edge.

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